

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/722,671

Applicant(s)

MASE ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 9/28/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-17.
3. The drawings filed on 26 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

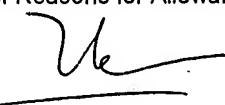
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____



T. Le

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gerald E. Hespos (Reg. No. 30,066) on 9/28/04.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 6, -- having opposite front and rear faces and being -- have been inserted after "a separate front member",

line 7, "and towards" have been changed to -- until the rear face of the front member substantially abuts --,

line 19, -- the ribs, the grooves, the resiliently deflectable lock and the locking projection all are disposed relative to one another so that the ribs and the grooves engage one another before the resiliently deflectable lock engages the locking projection for preventing the front member from tilting when the lock engages the locking projection -- have been inserted after "a plurality of pairs of ribs and grooves",

line 19, "the rib and the groove" have been changed to -- a rib and a groove --.

Claim 11, the new lines have been inserted after line 8 as follow:

-- a resiliently deflectable lock formed on at least one of the male housing and the moving plate and at least one locking projection provided on the other of the male

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housing and the moving plate, the resiliently deflectable lock being engagable with the locking projection to hold the moving plate in at least one specify position relative to the male housing; --,

line 12, "the front plate" has been changed to -- the moving plate --,

line 13, "the front plate" has been changed to -- the moving plate --,

line 15, -- , wherein the ribs, the grooves, the resiliently deflectable lock and the locking projection all are disposed relative to one another so that the ribs and the grooves engage one another before the resiliently deflectable lock engages the locking projection for preventing the moving plate from tilting when the lock engages the locking projection -- have been inserted after "receptacle".

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims 1-3 and 5-17 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the ribs, the grooves, the resiliently deflectable lock and the locking projection all being disposed relative to one another so that the ribs and the grooves engage one another before the resiliently deflectable lock engages the locking projection for preventing the moving plate from tilting when the lock engages the locking projection, as set forth the claimed combination.

The Examiner noted that the limitations above are overcome the Betsui (5,037,336), since all the ribs, the grooves, the resiliently lock and the locking projection in Betsui are all engaged at the same time (column 5, lines 1-24).

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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9/29/04.

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